March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
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Match comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

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3

JUMP COMICS

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「あの家はなんかコタツみたいだ…」。年末に体調を崩していた桐山だが、心配して駆け付けた川本家の3姉妹のあたたかい看病を受けて回復する。復調した桐山は囲碁の相手・後藤九段と対決すべく棋王戦挑戦者決定トーナメントに挑むのだが…。

様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。

「著者……近影」

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

なんだろう…この可愛さ…

可愛さのキングセレクションがあれば
金賞と銀も必ずもらえるに違いない

このふくよかな頬！
ぽやぽや鼻！！
視線のつりかた右ヒダリ
へのじのくち！！

天使！！宝石！！ママの宝物！！

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ヤングアニマル Aniki 嵐

March comes in like a lion

3月のライオン 羽海野チカ

3月のライオン 3

羽海野チカ

白泉社

・トマト
・玉子
・ハム
・いんげん
7月
牛乳

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学八段

3

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Chapter 22

Year Out

Let's drink it every day!!

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion
Chika Umino

After all the matches had ended for the year,

I was bedridden with a high fever.

Huddled alone in that dark room,

I greeted

the last day of the year, December 31st.

SFX: GOHO... (COUGH...)

So...

thirsty...

SFX: GOHO GOHO GOHO (COUGH COUGH COUGH)

SFX: BOH (BOHH)

- Ah

SFX: TON (TAP)

water...

In the days that I was confined at home,

But.

I should take some

—Oh right, medicine.

I should eat.

I...

there's only one dose left.

Need to go buy...

But.

I don't wanna.

It's too much hassle.

—Or actually, it's impossible.

delirious from my fever, I...

I saw the same dream over and over again.

I just need to sleep some more. Then,

my fever will

miraculously disappear

the next time I wake up.

Just sleep...

Just sleep

Oh, what-ever

I'll just sleep some more.

The one that has kept coming back ever since I was a kid.

A dream where I go up a long... long... escalator.

There was nothing to be afraid of— just that

SFX: GOLIN GOLIN (GONG GONG)

after going up and up and up... At the top,

SFX: GOLIN GOLIN.. GOLIN GOLIN. (GONG GONG. GONG GONG..)

there was no way to return.

WHO...

?!

SFX: PINPOON PINPOON PINPOON (DING-DOONG DING-DOONG DING-DOONG)

SFX: PINPON PINPON (DING-DONG DING-DONG)

Shut up.

Stop it!

No.

Can't get the door!

SFX: GOHO.. (COUGH...)

SFX. PINPON PINPON PINPON (DING-DONG DING-DONG DING-DONG)

SFX: GOHO (COUGH.)

?!

chan...

Rei

Rei-chan...

M-

MOMO-CHAN.

WHY?

Reei-chan.

!!
!!

HOW COME!?

Wheee! Ree-chan's house!!

EH?
UM...

Okay! Charge!!

ROGER!

EH?

AH!

you did catch a cold.

Ah— Goodness!

SFX: BOFA (POOF)

EH? TAXI? WHY? W-WHERE AM I GOING?

I'VE ALREADY CALLED A TAXI FOR YOU DOWN-STAIRS

YOU ONLY NEED TO BRING YOUR CELL PHONE, WALLET, AND KEYS!! YOU CAN GO IN YOUR PAJAMAS WHERE'S YOUR COAT?

REI-KUN,

Come on, HURRY YOUR SCARF!!

UNDER-STOOD☆

Hina!!

Secure the pillow!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK?

TO SEE A DOCTOR OF COURSE.

SFX: KI (KLANG)

SFX: HONWAN (SERENE)

—LISTEN CAREFULLY. IF IT'S THE FLU, THEN YOU'LL STAY HERE FOR QUARANTINE AND TREAT-MENT.

IF IT'S ONLY A NORMAL COLD,

then I'm taking you back to my house.

OKAY,

HERE YOU GO

SFX: GOHO GOHO (COUGH COUGH) SFX: MOKO MOKO MOKO (FLUFFY FLUFFY FLUFFY)

SFX. KO KO KO (TAP TAP TAP)

DO YOU LIKE UMEBOSHI? I PUT SOME IN.

EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T TASTE MUCH BECAUSE OF YOUR FEVER, IT'LL BE A BIT REFRESHING.

SINCE WE HAVE BOTH THE YOUNG AND OLD AT OUR PLACE, WE HAVE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL.

WOW.

IT'S EGG CONGEE. OKAY, EAT UP! I SAW YOUR KITCHEN.

YOU HAVEN'T REALLY EATEN ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?

.....

I'M GLAD THAT IT'S NOT THE FLU.

WE'LL WRAP THIS TOWEL AROUND YOUR NECK AND REPLACE IT AFTER YOU SWEAT.

SINCE IT'S REALLY EASY TO SWEAT AFTER EATING CONGEE.

EH?

AH.

LIFT UP YOUR HEAD.

HERE, REE-CHAN

OKAY, MOMO!

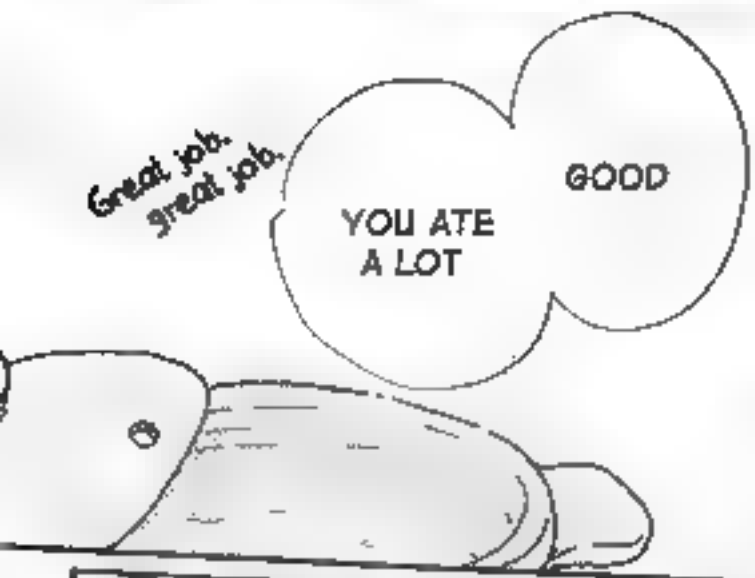
JUST GOING TO WIPE THE SWEAT ON YOUR FOREHEAD.. THERE.

SORRY.

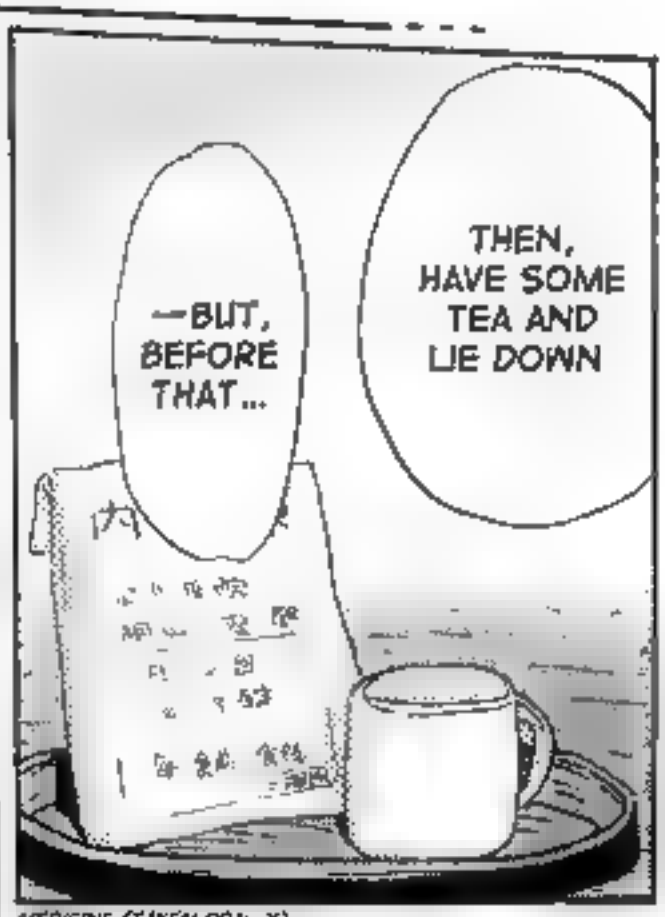
WE HAVE LOTS OF TOWELS, SO WE CAN CHANGE ANYTIME.

YOU WON'T GET BETTER IF YOU DON'T SWEAT.

SFX. GOSHI GOSHI (WIPE WIPE)



EH?
NO, I'M ALREADY LIVING INDEPEN-DENTLY.
IT SHOULD BE FINE...
THEY'RE PROBABLY REALLY WORRIED.
YOU NEED TO MAKE A CALL TO YOUR HOME IN MEJIRO
Mikan, mikan
Citrus things are just Mikan



MEDICINE (TAKEN ORALLY)
HOSPITAL
MR. KIRIYAMA REI
TWICE A DAY
THREE TABLETS EACH TIME
TAKE AFTER MEAL

HMPH...

LIVING INDEPEN-DENTLY?

.....

SFX: PAKA (SNAP)

SFX: PIRORRI... (CHIME...)

SFX: GUKI (POP)

SORRY, LET ME BORROW YOUR CELL PHONE FOR JUST A SEC.

RECHARGE!!!

YOUR CELL PHONE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS, RIGHT?

AM I RIGHT?

HOW IS THAT "INDEPEN-DENT"?

ACTUALLY MAKING THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WORRY.

YES.

Call History

Father missed

Father missed

Father missed

Kawamoto missed

Father missed

Father missed

Kawamoto missed

Kawamoto missed

Father missed

FATHER, IT'S REI.

HELLO? UM...

"Since I couldn't get through to your cell phone, I was planning to go to your place. Are you really okay?"

"Rei? Is this Rei?" "Are you okay?" "What happened? You got a cold?"

The moment I heard Father's voice on the phone,

I saw my shallowness

Father's voice

was a voice that was truly worried about me

I'm an idiot

Going round and round in circles in my head

But in the end,

I was only thinking about myself

KIRI-YAMA-KUN,

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

CAN YOU GET UP?

COME AND EAT SOMETHING, AND THEN TAKE SOME

TV KOUKAIDU

I KNEW THAT IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS...

TOTALLY.

AS I EXPECTED—

.....

Let me know when Ishikawa Sayori is on.

Nya-

Please wake us up nya-

When dinner's ready

Let me know when maiko-chan is on.

Toi!

SFX: SHUN SHUN (WHEE WHEE)

SFX: GUOO GUOO (ZZZ ZZZ)

SFX: SPII (hii)

Nobody in this family ever talks about "Father"

WHILE WE WATCHED THE OLD YEAR GO OUT AND THE NEW YEAR COME IN.

WOULD BE COMPLAINING ABOUT THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN ASLEEP AS WE CLEANED UP.

EVERY YEAR, MOM, OBAA-CHAN, AND I, THE THREE OF US

Something must have happened

Ah That's right Their father

.....

IT FELT LIKE THERE WAS A SERIOUS LACK OF OXYGEN.

THERE USED TO BE THREE MORE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE, SO WE WERE SQUEEZED FOR SPACE

IT WAS EVEN CRAZIER BEFORE.

Three more

SFX: SHUN SHUN (WHEE WHEE)

COME ON, REI-KUN, YOU SHOULD EAT. YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT?

YOU WERE SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY THAT WE DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU.

I CRUSHED SOME UMEBOSHI AND MIXED THEM IN.

EH?

I SAID THIS EARLIER ALREADY, DIDN'T I.

EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE A FEVER AND YOU CAN'T TASTE ANYTHING, IT'LL BE REFRESHING...

IT'S WHAT MOM ALWAYS SAID TO US WHEN WE GOT SICK.

NO WAY, SO NOW I'VE COME TO SAY THE SAME THING...

WHENEVER I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS, I WOULD THINK "NOT THAT AGAIN". BUT, I'D FEEL REALLY RELIEVED.

MOM'S WORDS ARE JUST LIKE A MAGICAL SPELL.

BUT, MOMO BARELY EVER GOT TO HEAR THOSE WORDS BEFORE IT ALL ENDED.

POOR CHILD...

UM... YOU REALLY...

SAVED ME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT DAY AS NEW YEAR'S EVE,

EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT PART OF YOUR FAMILY, YOU LET ME IN AND TENDED TO ME WITH SUCH CARE...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I'M THE ONE WHO WANTED YOU TO COME. THE ONE WHO WAS SAVED IS ME.

IF YOU WEREN'T HERE,

I ALMOST CERTAINLY WOULD BE BY MYSELF,

CLEANING UP, AND THEN I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN CRYING.

SFX: GOSHI GOSHI... (SCRUB SCRUB...)

H-hey, Kiriyama-kun! Why are you the one crying?

...Ah, really, why me too?

As we were sniffling and frantically trying to find tissues,

we heard the watch-night bell sound on the television.

–And just like that, miserably, this year disappeared into the sky...

Distracted by my own loneliness,

I did not realise other people's loneliness.

The sounds of the watch-night bell piled heavily upon my foolish self.

Like a wide river, flowing slowly,

the new year had arrived.

Chapter 22 end

BE WITH YOU SCANS NOTES

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UMEBOSHI are dried pickled plums and are extremely sour.

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Like many other households in Japan, the Kawamoto family is watching the NHK's 60th KOUHAKU UTA GASSEN, an annual four hour long New Year's Eve television music show special which splits the year's most popular music artists into competing teams. MAIKO is an allusion to the J-Pop singer aiko, while Ojii-san's favourite, ISHIKAWA SAYORI alludes to the prolific enka singer and Kouhaku regular, Ishikawa Sayuri.

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New Year's Eve is the second-most important day in Japanese tradition behind New Year's Day.

Joya no kane, or the WATCH-NIGHT BELL is a tradition where Buddhist temples throughout Japan ring their bells 108 times to welcome the new year.